

**DRAFT
TOWN OF CHESTER
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**November 16, 2015
Minutes**

PRESENT: Tom Bock; Tom Hildreth; Claudio Veliz; Randall Wiggin

VISITORS: Julie Hance; Jason Rasmussen; Michel Normyle; Phil Perlah; Heather Chase;
Michael Alon; John DeBenedetti; Carla Westine; Cathy Hasbrouck; David Pisha

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairman Bock. Tom Bock noted that Claudio Veliz is sitting in for Harry Goodell.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Randall Wiggin to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2015 Planning Commission. Seconded by Tom Hildreth. The motion passed.

2. TOWN PLAN REVIEW:

Tom Bock provided an overview of the Town Plan update process. He then introduced Jason Rasmussen from the Regional Planning Commission who has been hired to assist in this process.

Jason Rasmussen explained that the new requirements are Flood Resilience and Economic Development. Chester is currently in compliance at this time. However these sections need to be addressed in further detail. Michael Alon questioned the difference between the Town Plan and the Master Plan. It was explained that the Master Plan is a much more detailed document that is used for implementation. Jason Rasmussen discussed the components of aspirational language and the role that it plays in the Town Plan and Unified Development Bylaws. Discussion ensued regarding where aspirational language is needed and where it needs to be tightened up.

Jason Rasmussen suggested that he begin with drafting some language in one particular section of the Town Plan so that the Planning Commission can see what the non-aspirational language will look like.

Discussion ensued regarding the public meetings. Suggestions were made that there should be a greater outreach to include a town mailing, articles, special webpage and holding the hearings at different times. Tom Hildreth suggested that the Chester Economic Development Committee be invited to these meetings.

Carla Westine questioned if the FIRM maps will still be used as the maps for the Flood Resilience portion of the Town Plan. Michael Normyle stated that the flood plain division would like to meet with the joint boards.

Julie Hance stated that she and Jason Rasmussen will work together to organize what types of public meetings will be held and propose some dates. They will have this proposal ready for the next meeting.

Michael Alon offered to reach out to his contacts and offer for them to be added to a town email list.

3. CITIZENS COMMENTS:

There were no citizen's comments.

4. SET DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was set for Monday, December 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

5. ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Randall Wiggin to adjourn. Seconded by Claudio Veliz. There being no further business at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:25.

Julie Hance
Planning Director

Thomas Bock
Chairman of the Planning
Commission